

Western Region Notebook: NAPS/USPS EAS Engagement meeting

October 15, 2012 Western Region

Louis Atkins, National NAPS President, Pacific and Western Region and Central Region (assigned to the Western Area) NAPS National officers along with state and local branch Presidents met in Denver at the GMF for the joint meeting. In total, 58 NAPS attendees and USPS Pacific and Western Area District Managers attended this meeting.

Drew stated he was looking forward to his new assignment as USPS Western Area VP, however he would miss the employees in the Pacific Area. Drew's message is Service up and Cost Down and he is pleased with the performance of the Western and Pacific Area postal employees. He was pleased to start his first week attending the joint USPS/NAPS EAS Engagement meeting.

Simon Storey, Western Area HR and Rizza Hambric, Pacific Area HR reviewed the current impacted EAS and reviewed the timelines facing EAS in making decisions to select new positions. Both asked NAPS to encourage members to make informed choices so they can be placed and form 50's can be cut. Rizza reviewed some of the challenges occurring in the Pacific Area in attempting to place impacted EAS. She also asked for NAPS assistance in matching current vacancies with impacted EAS.

President Atkins discussed the positive relationship that was in place between NAPS and the USPS at both the local and national level. As he concluded his remarks, Atkins stated that there must be communication and face to face meetings to help NAPS and the Postal Service work through problems and ensure the success of the Postal Service.

EAS Engagement was the focus of the meeting. The first meeting of this type was hosted in the New York District by James Warden New York Area VP. The meeting was successful and the concept was shared with the Western Region.

After Jim's introduction and review of the process the District Managers and the NAPS representatives formed break out groups to discuss local issues and concerns. Each NAPS rep was asked in advance to bring several local issues to the meeting as a start to move the conversation. The reasoning being that once back home follow-up meetings will be scheduled to discuss the issues presented.

There was a presentation by EAP reminding everyone of the resources available to all postal employees. The EAP professional also shared information on a new EAP Coaching program that is open to any postal employee.

The joint meeting concluded with The Postal Service managers departing after

the breakout sessions and allowing NAPS time for a Q & A session with the National NAPS officers. There were many questions about current impacted positions. Staffing, Involuntary Reassignments, DOIS concerns and requests for Lateral Reassignments were some of the topics discussed.

The NAPS Colorado/Wyoming Bi-state branch hosted a breakfast meeting on Saturday morning for the Pacific and Western Region NAPS officers. This meeting allowed for additional discussions on strategies to follow in presenting the best representation for NAPS members.